

B e n t e L e i k n e s T h o r s e n

WITH MY EAR TO THE GROUND
(AT THE TIPS OF MY FINGERS)

f o r p i a n o s o l o (w i t h k e y b o a r d)



2024

Commissioned by, and written to, Ellen Ugelvik
with support from Norsk Kulturfond



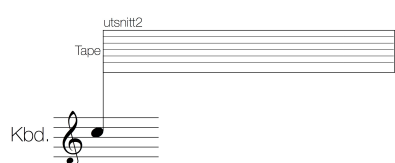
PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

EQUIPMENT

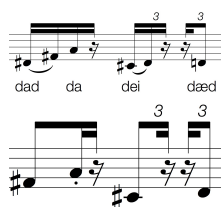
In addition to a grand piano with a sostenuto pedal (the middle pedal), a MIDI-keyboard with two octaves and octave buttons is needed for the piece as well as one elbow.

MIDI - KEYBOARD

The keyboard is programmed in Ableton Live and the notation is in two modes:



Notated like this the keyboard simply acts like a trigger. The recording that is triggered lasts for as long as the box indicates.



Notated like this the keyboard is playable, meaning that in addition to being touch sensitive (and able to perform dynamics) the samples also follow the performer's execution of duration. The top staff, called "tape", indicates what should be heard. Pay extra attention when the sample is longer than the duration in the score.

The keyboard starts with setting 1 where C1 on the keyboard should be set to CC (english system), meaning the octave should be set as low as possible. For every new setting the performer changes the octave setting of the keyboard two octaves up. (This means Setting 1 = -4, Setting 2 = -2, Setting 3 = 0 and Setting 4 = 2).

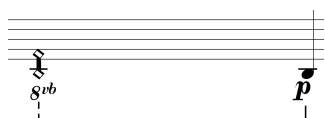
TEMPI

In parts with extensive use of samples, the tempo is 60 in order to make the notation of samples easier to work with. Elsewhere, the performer is encouraged to experiment with tempi in order to make the material breathe.

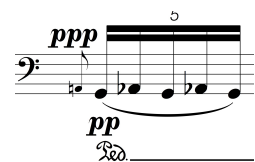
ACCIDENTALS

In parts with bars, accidentals lasts for the length of the bar. Elsewhere in the piece, accidentals only apply to the specific note.

PEDALS



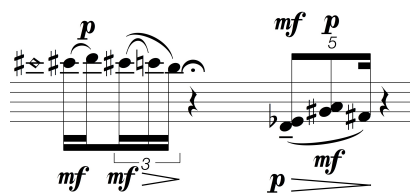
When the sostenuto pedal (the middle pedal) is used, it is notated with a line



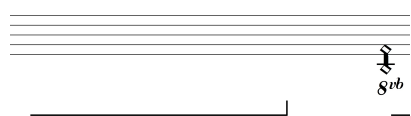
When the use of the damper pedal is notated it is critical to play as notated, but the pedal can be employed by the performer in other instances as well.

Please contact the composer to get the sound library - benteleiknesthorsen.no

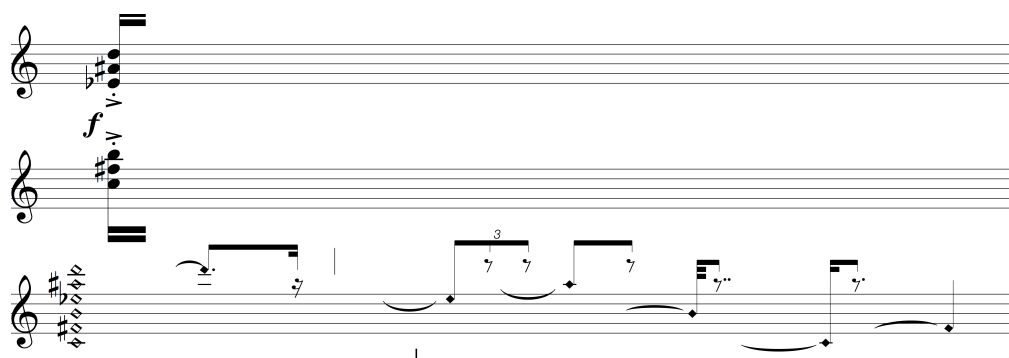
NOTATIONS



Diamonds indicate an open string and must be pressed down silently. Here, the sostenuto pedal holds the c# until the next group of tones.



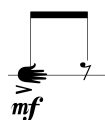
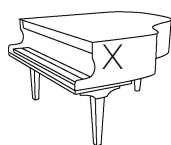
The thick black line between the two diamonds means a cluster (chromatic). Smaller clusters, like this one, can be achieved with one hand, larger might need both arms.



The diamond notes are pressed down silently and then held with the sostenuto pedal. After the attack both hands take over and release the reverberating strings as notated.



Diamond with an [e] means an open string (pressed down silently) performed with an elbow.



Slam open hand on side (body) of instrument to make a percussive sound.



Right fermata is of shorter duration, left fermata is long and usually with a given time in seconds.



Abruptly press down and release the right pedal (to make a reverberation noise).



Pluck string with fingernail.



Pluck string with plectrum.



Continue to play the content of the mobile (box) for as long as the black line indicates. Dynamics as indicated (pp) for the mobile.

with my ear to the ground
(at the tips of my fingers)

Bente Leiknes Thorsen

rubato, freely

p
mf
mf
mf
mf
p
mf
mf
p
p
p
tr slowly, uneven
♩ = 60
8^{va}

rubato, freely
(time events w/ tape)

SETTING 1

tut
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf

♩ = 60

dai deh dæ
dad da dei dæd
dai deh
dæ dæ
pp
tape-part almost inaudible
mf
mf
f
mf
p
r.h.
l.h.
p

rubato, freely

Pno.

senza misura approx. 8", playful
normal sizes notes should stand out, small notes are ornaments

Pno.

tempo approx. ♩ = 60 (in sync with tape parts)

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

slow and thoughtfull
accidentals are only valid for indicated note

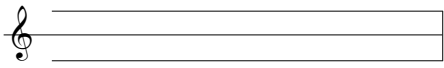
Pno.

immediately after stopping the note, lift finger to achieve reverb

Pno.

Kbd.

Tape



Pno.

Tape

Kbd.

[e] [e]

Tape

Kbd.

[e]

Tape

Kbd.

[e]

Tape

Kbd.

[e]

4

5/8 $\text{♩} = 60$

3/4

4/4

Tape
dai deh dæ dad da dei dæd dai deh

Kbd.
f *f* *mf f*

Pno.
mp mf p *mp f* *mf mf*
quasi tr. r.h. i.h.

3/4

Tape
dæ dæ da dad da da dæ dæ dædædædæ

Kbd.
mp *mp* *mp* *mp mf* [e]

Pno.
p *mp* *mp* *mp*

l.v. for as long as there is resonance

Calm

Pno.
mf *ff*
p *Red.*

senza misura approx. 8", playful

Pno.
mf p mf p mf white-keys gliss *p mf p mf*

tempo approx. $\text{♩} = 60$ (in sync with tape parts)

System 1:

- Tape:** [Diagram of a tape recorder] → *tut* (with $\sharp 2$ marking), *tut tut*, *tut tut* (with $\sharp 7$ marking).
- Kbd.:** $\sharp 0$, \sharp , \sharp , $\sharp 7$.
- Pno.:**
 - Right hand: 5 (5), mf (5), mp (5) → pp (5), mf (5), mp .
 - Left hand: 5 (5), mf , pp , mf .

System 2:

- Tape:** $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, *tut tut tut tut tut*, *tut tut tut tut tut*, *tut tut tut*.
- Kbd.:** \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp .
- Pno.:**
 - Right hand: 5 , 3 , 3 .
 - Left hand: 5 , 3 , 3 .

System 3:

- Tape:** [Diagram of a tape recorder] → *tut*, *tut*, *tut*, *tut*.
- Kbd.:** $\sharp 0$, \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp .
- Pno.:**
 - Right hand: 5 (5), mf (3), mp (5) → 5 , 5 , mp (5).
 - Left hand: 5 (5), mf , mp , mp .

System 4:

- Tape:** $\frac{6}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$, *tut tut tut tut tut*, *tut tut tut tut*, *tut tut tut*.
- Kbd.:** \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp .
- Pno.:**
 - Right hand: \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp , \sharp .
 - Left hand: (slowly decaying. too long...), 7 , 7 .

5/4 4/4

Tape
tut tut tut tut tut
tut tut tut tut tut
tut tut tut tut tut tut tut

Kbd.

Pno.

3/4 2/4 3/4

Tape
tut
tut
tut

Kbd.

Pno.

5/4 ♩ = 60

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

mf *ppp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf*

8va *8vb* *8vb*

4/4

Tape
dai deh dæ dæ
dad dada
dei dæd

Kbd.

Pno.

mf *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*

2 3 2

Tape: *daedædaedæ* pa pap paa paa pap

Kbd. *mf f mp f mp mf f*

Pno. *p mp pp mf mp*

uneven and not continuous tremolo (w/finger)

Change to SETTING 2

senza misura 10"

Tape: E in the ending of tape = start of piano

Kbd.

Pno. *f p mp*

This music is copyright protected

4/4 ♩ = 60

Tape

Kbd.

Pno. *pp p < mf mp mp pp mf*

right hand: a rapid and slightly uneven tremolo for the duration of the tape-material

Tape

Pno.

p *pp* *mf* > *p* *mf* *p* *5* *mf* *5* *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

Tape

Pno.

pp *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mp* *mf* *ppp*

Tape

Pno.

pp *p* *mf* *mp* *pp* *p*

Tape

Pno.

mp *mf* *mf* *5* *p* *mp*



Tape

Pno.

p
ppp
f *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

5 3 3 5 3

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Tape' and contains a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *p*. The middle staff is labeled 'Pno.' and contains a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The bottom staff is a grand staff with dynamic markings *f*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*. There are also fingering numbers 5, 3, 3, 5, 3 and a '7' in the bottom staff.

Tape

Pno.

p *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp*

3 3 5 5 3 3

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Tape' and contains a melodic line with a slur. The middle staff is labeled 'Pno.' and contains a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The bottom staff is a grand staff with dynamic markings *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*. There are also fingering numbers 3, 3, 5, 5, 3, 3.

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

æ?
æ? æ? æ?
æa æh æh æ - bei æ

Change to SETTING 3

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

3 5 5 5 5

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is labeled 'Tape' and contains lyrics: æ?, æ? æ? æ?, æa æh æh æ - bei æ. The middle staff is labeled 'Kbd.' and contains a keyboard accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The bottom staff is labeled 'Pno.' and contains a piano accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mf*. There are also fingering numbers 3, 5, 5, 5, 5. A box labeled 'Change to SETTING 3' is present in the Kbd. staff.

rubato, freely

mf

Pno. *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

4/4 ♩ = 60

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

pp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *p* *mp*

dai dæ da dai dæd

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

mp *mf* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *p*

dai deh dæ dad da der dæd dai deh dæ dæ dae dad dada

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

f *mp* *p*

dei dæd deh dæ daedædaedæ pa paa pap paa mmm

2/4 4/4

Tape: pap pa æ? æ? æ? æa mam mmm

Kbd. *mf*³

Pno. *pp* *mf*⁵

Change to SETTING 4

Pno. *f*

Pno. *ff* *mp*

as quick as possible

tempo approx. ♩ = 60 (in sync with tape parts)

5/4 3/4 4/4

Tape: tut tut tut tut tut

Kbd.

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp* *mf* *mp*

freely

Pno.

The piano introduction consists of two measures. The first measure features a dense, tremolo-like texture of chords in the right hand, with a single note in the left hand. The second measure continues this texture with a change in the left-hand accompaniment.

♩ = 60

Voice

hum softly

right hand: rapid and slightly uneven tremolo

Pno.

The score for the first system includes a voice line and a piano accompaniment. The voice part begins with a melodic line marked 'hum softly' and 'mp'. The piano accompaniment features a 'rapid and slightly uneven tremolo' in the right hand, with triplets and a 'pp' dynamic. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with a note marked '[e]'.



Voice

mp

Tape

Kbd.

Pno.

p

ppp pp

5 5 3

p mf p mf p mf p

mp < mp <

The second system of the score includes voice, tape, keyboard, and piano parts. The voice part continues with a melodic line marked 'mp'. The piano accompaniment features a 'p' dynamic in the right hand and 'ppp pp' dynamics in the left hand. The keyboard part has a simple accompaniment with notes marked 'p mf p mf p mf p'. The tape part has a simple accompaniment with notes marked 'mp < mp <'. The piano part features a 'p' dynamic in the right hand and 'ppp' dynamics in the left hand. The left hand has a simple accompaniment with notes marked '5 5 3' and '[e]'.

Score system 1:

- Voice:** Treble clef, 7/8 time signature. First measure contains a triplet of eighth notes (Bb, Ab, Gb) with a '3' above. Second measure contains a dotted quarter note (Fb) with a fermata. Third measure contains a quarter note (Eb) with a fermata.
- Tape:** Treble clef, contains a long horizontal line.
- Pno.:** Grand staff. Right hand: Treble clef, starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic. Features a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G#, A) and a series of chords. Left hand: Bass clef, contains a triplet of eighth notes (Fb, Eb, D) and a quarter note (Cb) with a fermata.

Score system 2:

- Voice:** Treble clef. First measure contains a quintuplet of eighth notes (G, F, E, D, C) with a '5' above. Second measure contains a quarter note (B) with a fermata.
- Pno.:** Grand staff. Right hand: Treble clef, features a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G#, A) and a series of chords. Left hand: Bass clef, features a triplet of eighth notes (Fb, Eb, D) and a quarter note (Cb) with a fermata. Dynamics include *mf*.

Score system 3:

- Voice:** Treble clef. First measure contains a quarter note (B) with a fermata. Second measure contains a quarter note (A) with a fermata.
- Pno.:** Grand staff. Right hand: Treble clef, starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Features a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G#, A) and a series of chords. Left hand: Bass clef, starts with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. Features a quintuplet of eighth notes (G, F, E, D, C) and a triplet of eighth notes (Fb, Eb, D). Dynamics include *mp*.

Score system 4:

- Tape:** Treble clef. First measure contains a quarter note (B) with a fermata. Second measure contains a quarter note (A) with a fermata.
- Kbd.:** Treble clef. First measure contains a quarter note (B) with a fermata. Second measure contains a quarter note (A) with a fermata. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.
- Pno.:** Grand staff. Right hand: Treble clef, features a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G#, A) and a series of chords. Left hand: Bass clef, features a triplet of eighth notes (Fb, Eb, D) and a quarter note (Cb) with a fermata. Dynamics include *mf*. A 'tremolo stop' marking is present above the right hand.

13"

freely *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

slow, uneven *tr* quick

Pno. *ff* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

tempo approx. ♩ = 60 (in sync with tape parts)

2/4 5/4

Tape tut tut tut tut tut

Kbd.

Pno. *mp* *Red.*

Pno. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf* *5* *p* *mf*

Tape aeh? æ - bei æ æ æ Ha!

Kbd. *mf* *f* *5* *mp* *f*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *5*